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Universal Pictures and Working Title Films Choose Alaska for “Everybody Loves Whales”

June 14, 2010. Anchorage, Alaska – The Alaska Film Office is pleased to announce that Universal Pictures and Working Title Films have selected Alaska to host principal photography for “Everybody Loves Whales,” starring Drew Barrymore and John Krasinski. This is an exciting project that has been actively courted by the Alaska Film Office and a variety of Alaska film industry businesses.

Based on the inspiring true story that captured the hearts of people across the world, the rescue adventure “Everybody Loves Whales” tells the amazing tale of a small town news reporter (John Krasinski) and a Greenpeace volunteer (Drew Barrymore) who enlist the help of rival world superpowers to save a family of majestic gray whales trapped under the ice of the Arctic Circle near Barrow. The film will be directed by Ken Kwapis from a screenplay by Jack Amiel and Michael Begler.

“Alaska was chosen because of the stunning locations, the deep cooperation shown by the Alaskans we’ve been working with throughout the scouting process, and because of the outstanding incentive program the State offers filmmakers,” said Gary Wordham, Vice President for Physical Production at Universal Pictures.

This production is a major endeavor. “That translates to hundreds of Alaskans being put to work in jobs from construction to hospitality,” said Emil Notti, Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development. “This is a welcome boost to Alaska’s economy that would not have been possible without Alaska’s Film Industry Tax Credit and the important role corporate taxpayers play in making it practical for Universal to film here.”

Alaska’s Film Industry Tax Credit, set up two years ago, offers financial incentives to film companies that shoot here and use Alaska labor. The program allows Alaska businesses to purchase the credits for use against their own tax liability.

“Two years ago Alaska recognized that something had to be done to encourage films set in Alaska to be filmed here,” said DCCED Deputy Commissioner Curtis Thayer. “This is a perfect example of a

production that should be filmed here. It's a story set in Alaska, based on events that happened in Alaska. Now, due to the efforts of both the public and private sectors, we know it will be filmed in Alaska.”

Pre-production will ramp up over the next few weeks, with set construction taking place in several locations in the Anchorage area. Shooting is scheduled for this fall and early winter. Crew and casting calls are under way.

For additional information, contact Dave Worrell, Film Office manager, at 269-8491 or david.worrell@alaska.gov, or Alissa Grayson, Universal Pictures, at 818-777-4739 or alissa.grayson@nbcuni.com.

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The Alaska Film Office provides assistance to productions considering filming in Alaska and administers Alaska's Film Production Incentive, which provides a transferable tax credit to productions that film in Alaska. Alaska businesses interested in purchasing tax credits to use against their Alaska tax liabilities should contact the Film Office. For information about the Film Office and the Alaska Film Production Tax Credit, please visit www.film.Alaska.gov

Universal Pictures creates and distributes theatrical and non-theatrical filmed entertainment. For more information, please visit www.universalpictures.com.